

Message Text

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46

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 EB-07 FRB-03

INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02

CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15 STR-04

CEA-01 L-03 H-02 DODE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 /097 W

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R 161356Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9144

USDOC WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE DAMASCUS 5417

ATHENS FOR RTDO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, SY

SUBJECT: DAMASCUS VISIT OF COMMERCE UNDER SECRETARY VETTER

1. COMMERCE UNDER SECRETARY EDWARD O. VETTER AND PARTY DEPARTED DAMASCUS ON SCHEDULE AT 1230 TUESDAY, AUGUST 10, AFTER 20-HOUR VISIT. DAMASCUS WAS ESSENTIALLY A COURTESY VISIT, WITH VETTER ACTING AS COMMERCE SECRETARY RICHARDSON'S REPRESENTATIVE TO DAMASCUS INTERNATIONAL FAIR.

2. SARG MINISTER OF ECONOMY AND FOREIGN TRADE IMADI MET WITH VETTER PARTY AND EMBASSY OFFICIALS FOR ABOUT AN HOUR. VETTER DISCUSSED ARAB BOYCOTT AS IMPEDIMENT TO TRADE AND IMADI EXPLAINED SYRIAN COMMITMENT TO OBSERVE BOYCOTT RULES. IMADI ONCE AGAIN EXPRESSED SYRIAN INTEREST IN POSSIBILITY FUTURE EXIM BANK FINANCING FOR SYRIAN PROJECTS. MEETING CONCLUDED WITH AMBASSADOR AND IMADI SIGNING OPIC BILATERAL AGREEMENT (DAMASCUS 5282). AFTER VETTER AND PARTY TOURED THE
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U.S. PAVILION AT THE DAMASCUS INTERNATIONAL FAIR, THEY

WERE GUESTS AT A LUNCHEON GIVEN BY IMADI AND SENIOR
MINISTRY OF ECONOMY OFFICIALS; DEPUTY MINISTER OF
FINANCE ABDEL HADI NEHLAWI ALSO ATTENDED. AMBASSADOR
IN TURN GAVE A DINNNER FOR VETTER NIGHT OF AUGUST 9;
ABOUT 75 GUESTS ATTENDED, INCLUDING IMADI AND DEPUTY
MINISTERS OF ECONOMY AND PLANNING.

3. VISIT RECEIVED, BY SYRIAN STANDARDS, GOOD PRESS
COVERAGE. VETTER GAVE PRESS CONFERENCE, WITH SEVEN
LOCAL JOURNALISTS ATTENDING, AT END OF HIS VISIT TO
U.S. PAVILION. DAMASCUS RADIO, TELEVISION, AND AT
LEAST TWO DAILY NEWSPAPERS NOTED HIS VISIT WITHOUT
EDITORIAL COMMENT.

MURPHY

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NNN

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